

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Fabri-Kal Corporation

Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center

#### Continuous Improvement Starts With Education at Fabri-Kai

##### Client Profile:

Fabri-Kal Corporation serves the food industry through its manufacture of thermoformed food containers and drink cups. The company employs 412 people at its facility in Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

##### Situation:

Fabri-Kal's ownership/management recognized the competitive benefits of continuous improvement utilizing Lean manufacturing principles. A key strategic initiative is to develop a continuous improvement culture across the organization to ensure all employees would be engaged in developing and sustaining improvements. The company approached the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to perform the training/education for the employees and develop a continuous improvement system to help the company achieve its business goals.

##### Solution:

NEPIRC conducted an initial assessment of Fabri-Kal's goals and needs and customized a "Lean basics" training program that was delivered to all employees. From there, the leadership team at Fabri-Kal attended and participated in Value Stream Mapping. NEPIRC developed a 5S program and training, six Sigma Green Belt, Standardized Work display and tracking, and Gemba/5 Why training for the employee continuous improvement teams.

##### Results:

\* Realized \$30,000 in cost savings.

##### Testimonial:

"What a great partner NEPIRC has turned out to be! NEPIRC has significant and impressive bench strength. We have been very pleased with coaches and engineers that they have provided and have already seen significant improvements in safety, quality, delivery and cost."

Roland Yarbrough, Plant Manager